

ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Harold L. Domer, Jr.
Division Director

Date: February 5, 2009

To: The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC)

From: Harold L. Domer, Jr., Director, Animal Control Division

Subject: Discussion of Final Report for the Shelter Consultation by Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

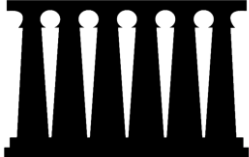
ISSUE: This request is to discuss the Final Report submitted by Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, specifically the Shelter's evaluation through their Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program.

BACKGROUND: Peggy Kelley, Chairperson for The Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC) had requested in June of 2008, and the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved, for Cornell University to evaluate the medical protocols of the Animal Control Division. On September 3rd, 4th, and 5th of 2008, Dr. Brenda Griffin, Dr. Stephanie Janeczko, and Dr. Brian DiGangi of Cornell University performed the Shelter evaluation. On Wednesday, September 3, 2008, the above named Veterinarians arrived at the Shelter where an initial meeting was held with Barry Stanton, the Shelter's management team, and Peggy Kelley, to discuss the agenda for the time frame of the evaluation. The Veterinarians were provided a tour of our Shelter and some brief explanations of animal movement through the Shelter. The evaluation team remained until approximately 7:30 pm.

On Thursday, September 4, 2008, the evaluation team arrived at the Shelter at 6:00 am to observe our morning clean up, which begins daily at that time. The Veterinarians remained at the Shelter throughout the day monitoring, evaluating all aspects of animal movement and staff care, treatment, vaccinations and medications of animals sheltered. They remained at the Shelter until approximately 7:30 pm.

On Friday, September 5, 2008, Dr. Griffin provided a verbal debriefing of the findings discovered over the previous two days. While the Final Report does provide additional information, the vast majority of information contained in the Final Report was discussed with the management team of the Shelter and Peggy Kelley.

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Dr. Griffin indicated her sincere appreciation for the professionalism and openness displayed to the evaluation team while at our Shelter. She complimented the Shelter on its organizational structure, its management team and its dedicated staff and volunteers. While there are few formal regulations relating to animal care and welfare existent for Shelters, she was impressed with the many programs in place, and many of the problems noted are inherent in shelters throughout the United States.

A specific issue that was discussed was a major deficiency in cleaning and disinfecting protocols with the Shelter's use of a bleach and water solution. The proper ratio is one (1) part bleach to 32 parts water. We should have used one-half (1/2) cup per gallon. On September 5, 2008, a one-half (1/2) cup plastic measuring device was permanently affixed in the laundry room.

Dr. Griffin questioned the Shelter's use of a product known as Tek-Trol which was used to disinfect in our Dog Quarantine area. While the product is labeled as effectively destroying the canine parvovirus, it was Dr. Griffin's recommendation to discontinue the use of Tek-Trol. Pursuant to that request, effective September 5, 2008, Tek-Trol is not utilized in the Shelter.

FUNDING: As the Shelter moves forward in implementing a number of the recommendations provided by Cornell, any costs associated with additional room dividers, floor maintenance, cage design, and animals being relocated are contingent on existing monies within the Animal Control Division budget and/or the Maintenance Department's Budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: After thorough review of the information provided by Cornell University in their debriefing on September 5, 2008, as well as the detailed information provided in their final report, the management team firmly believes a number of the recommendations have been implemented and progress is moving forward towards making our Shelter more "healthy and happy" for the animals in our care. We further believe that if approved, a part-time contractual veterinarian can provide valuable medical direction to the wide range of issues that our Shelter faces on a daily basis. We have attached to this Staff Report a brief response to each bulleted item that Cornell has identified as a problem, as part of Cornell's Final Report as submitted to us.

Attachments